

last few years, our nation has witnessed an increase in new inhalant abusers from 382,000 in 1991 to an estimated 805,000 in 1996. In my view, these troubling trends can be reversed by educating the public about the dangers of this abuse and encouraging communities to develop effective treatment and prevention programs.

In my view, greater awareness of inhalant abuse can best be achieved through passage of S. 609, legislation introduced by Senator FRANK MURKOWSKI that would amend the Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1994 to include inhalant abuse among the Act's definition of "substance abuse." Passage of this bill will give Minnesota and other states the opportunity to develop federally-funded inhalant abuse prevention and education programs. Importantly, these programs will be based on the active involvement of parents, teachers and local communities. I am proud to be a cosponsor of this legislation which is an important element of our war on drugs.

Mr. President, the federal government should not regulate the sale of these legal and inexpensive products which are found in almost every household. Instead, communities, parents and teachers should be encouraged to develop local solutions to this problem. A united effort toward this epidemic will help the United States make significant progress in our fight against drug abuse.●

SPRINGTIME

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I rise to salute the Springtime and the birth of Caroline Byrd Fatemi, great-granddaughter of the distinguished Senator from West Virginia.

Last week, Senator BYRD took the floor to bring us glad tidings of spring and of Caroline's birth. Today, before we fly to the four corners of America, I would like to salute our beloved colleague and his progeny.

Time and again, Senator BYRD has graced this chamber with the lessons of history and the sweet music of poetry. Last week he ushered in Springtime with a stanza from Algernon Charles Swinburne. Let me quote the same poet to welcome Caroline to the world:

Where shall we find her, how shall we sing to her,
Fold our hands round her knees, and cling?
O that man's heart were as fire and could spring to her,
Fire, or the strength of the streams that spring!
For the stars and the winds are unto her
As raiment, as songs of the harp-player;
For the risen stars and the fallen cling to her,
And the south-west wind and the west-wind sing.

For winter's rains and ruins are over,
And all the season of snows and sins;
The days dividing lover and lover,
The light that loses, the night that wins;
And time remember'd is grief forgotten,
And frosts are slain and flowers begotten,

And in green underwood and cover
Blossom by blossom the Spring begins.

Mr. President, the link between the elder BYRD and the younger symbolizes for me what our job here is all about: Looking forward every day, every month, every year to the eternal Spring that is America—and keeping faith with every generation of American.

Whether we are working to improve education or save Social Security, we who are privileged to serve in the United States Senate can, by our actions, strengthen the bonds that unite our nation from generation to generation.

As we strive to make the world a better place for Caroline and every child of her generation, let us follow the advice in Laurence Binyon's poem "O World, be Nobler"—

O World, be nobler, for her sake!
If she but knew thee what thou art,
What wrongs are borne, what deeds are done
In thee, beneath thy daily sun,
Know'st thou not that her tender heart
For pain and very shame would break?
O world, be nobler, for her sake!●

"BEST GRADUATE SCHOOLS" IN THE NATION

● Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, when East Tennessee State University opened its doors in 1911, it had 29 students and one primary mission: the education of future teachers. A lot has changed in 85 years.

While teacher preparation is still a crucial part of its mission, ETSU today consists of nine schools and colleges that offer over 125 different programs of study to more than 12,000 students every year—including some fairly unique offerings such as its one-of-a-kind master's degree in reading and storytelling, and the only bluegrass and country music program offered at a four-year institution.

Over the last two decades, there has been an increasing emphasis on the health sciences at ETSU—an emphasis that began in 1974 with the establishment of the James H. Quillen College of Medicine which was created to help alleviate a critical shortage of primary care physicians in East Tennessee.

Mr. President, this year the Quillen College of Medicine celebrates its 25th anniversary. But that proud accomplishment, although noteworthy, is not the basis for my remarks this morning. Rather, I rise to commend its recent listing in U.S. News and World Report as one of the "Best Graduate Schools" in the Nation—a ranking well-deserved and well-earned.

According to the magazine, Quillen College earned the distinction of placing third among all the schools in the Nation for its programs in rural medicine. Last year, it placed sixth in the same category.

I also rise, Mr. President, to commend the ETSU College of Nursing—which was also ranked among the Nation's best. And, like Quillen College,

this is also the second year in a row it was so honored.

Both these schools, Mr. President, embrace the values of the people of Tennessee. Both are community oriented, both provide a valuable resource to local citizens and businesses, and both are making valuable and needed contributions to the practice and the quality of medicine.

My heartiest congratulations to the entire staff, faculty, students and alumni of both East Tennessee State University School of Nursing and the James H. Quillen College of Medicine for their splendid accomplishment.●

ANNIVERSARY OF GREEK INDEPENDENCE

● Mr. REED. Mr. President, today we celebrate the 178th Anniversary of the revolution that won Greece's independence from the Ottoman Empire. I am proud to join with forty-nine of my colleagues in sponsoring Senate Resolution 20 which designates today "Greek Independence Day: A National Day of Celebration of Greek and American Democracy."

The Greeks have been members of the community in Rhode Island for over one hundred years. Over 6,000 residents of the state claimed Greek heritage in the last Census. When the Greeks first came to the New England, they worked in factories and on the waterfront. The descendants of these first immigrants continue to prosper and enrich the Northeast and the rest of the country through their contributions to banking, medicine, the tourism industry, and the arts.

Edith Hamilton praised Greeks in this quote, "to rejoice in life, to find the world beautiful and delightful to live in, was a mark of the Greek spirit which distinguished it from all that had gone before. It is a vital distinction."

I have been grateful for this spirit, energy, and support in the Rhode Island Greek community, and, for a very long time, I wished to visit Greece and Cyprus. This summer, I finally had that opportunity. On my trip, I had the pleasure of meeting Ambassador Burns and the U.S. Ambassador to Cyprus, Kenneth Brill. I also met and had candid conversations with Greece's Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Greek Defense Minister. In addition, I had the chance to tour the Green Line in Cyprus and speak with Dame Ann Hercus, the newly appointed Chief of the United Nations mission and General De Vagera, the force commander.

During my visit, I was impressed by the beauty of these countries and the hospitality of the people of Cyprus and Greece. However, I was also overwhelmed by the consequences of Turkey's 1974 invasion of Cyprus. The division of the island saps the economic vitality of a region rich in resources. The inability to move goods, people, or services between the two parts of the island stymies growth.